

Braille and Talking Book Program

Eligibility



What Is NLS?

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, administers a free library service for individuals who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of a visual or physical disability. Through a network of cooperating libraries, eligible residents of the United States and its territories and U.S. citizens living abroad may borrow braille and talking books free of charge. Library service is local; readers register with the library that serves their area and can take advantage of these regional services in addition to the national collection provided by NLS.

Am I Eligible for NLS?

Any resident of the United States or U.S. citizen living abroad who is unable to read or use normal print materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical disability may receive service through NLS.

This includes the following people:

- Blind individuals whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
- Individuals with other physical disabilities, including:
 - Those whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material
 - Those certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations
 - Those certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material normally

Apply for the service today!
Call 1-888-NLS-READ (1-888-657-7323)
or visit www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead.